

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OPR-02 A-01 MCT-01 /054 W

-----091294 202341Z /70

O R 202242Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5438

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 0278

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, TERENCE A.), NU

SUBJECT: TODMAN VISIT: SITREP 2

1. WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF ANY DISTURBANCES OR VIOLENCE RESULTING FROM LAST NIGHT'S NINTH-DAY MASS IN THE OPEN-3 POOR BARRIO.

2. WE EXPECT AGITATORS TO TRY TO SPARK VIOLENCE DURING THE REINACTMENT OF THE CHAMORRO FUNERAL PROCESSION ON SATURDAY BUT WE ALSO EXPECT THE NATIONAL GUARD TO FOLLOW ITS INSTRUCTIONS TO AVOID THE USE OF ARMS AGAINST THE DEMONSTRATORS.

3. THE ONLY NEW DEVELOPMENT IS FREQUENT INDICATION FROM WELL-INFORMED BUSINESS, PROFESSIONAL, POLITICAL, AND LABOR CONTACTS THAT MOMENTUM IS INCREASING FOR THE INITIATION OF A GENERAL STRIKE (READ LOCKOUT) ON MONDAY, JANUARY 23. FOR SEVERAL DAYS THERE HAVE BEEN PRIVATE SECTOR LEADERS IN FAVOR OF THIS PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, THERE HAS NOT BEEN UNANIMITY AND NO ONE HAS WANTED TO RUN THE RISK OF BEING OUT IN FRONT OF SUCH AN UNPRECEDENTED ACTION. MANY BUSINESSES ARE REPORTEDLY WILLING TO ACQUIESCE OR EVEN PARTICIPATE,
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BUT FEW ARE GIVING FIRM ADVANCE COMMITMENTS.

4. EMBASSY REMAINS SKEPTICAL OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A GENERALIZED WORK STOPPAGE. HOWEVER, THE SIGNS ARE THAT THERE WILL BE A FEW BUSINESSES CLOSED ON MONDAY.

5. FROM MODERATE LEFTISTS WE HAVE HEARD THAT THERE ARE NOT PLANS

TO TRY TO MOUNT DEMONSTRATIONS RELATED TO THE TODMAN VISIT OR VIO-
LENCE ON SATURDAY.
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TAGS: OVIP, NU, (TODMAN, TERENCE A)
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